

graduated from Harvard Law School on the GI Bill.

As a young, Harvard-educated lawyer and Italian immigrant, however, my dad couldn't find a job. Italians were not respected, and after Hitler teamed up with Mussolini during the war, Italian Americans were not trusted, either.

My dad decided to return to Glen Cove, where he teamed up with another Italian lawyer, ran for city court judge, and became the youngest judge in the history of New York State.

My father achieved many other great successes, and he would always say, "What a country." His life was the very essence of the American Dream.

Our American Dream, however, is at risk. It may soon be the American nightmare.

Well, I still believe in my father's American Dream, and I am committed to keeping it alive.

Immigration has been an issue for decades, yet after all these years, Congress has yet to pass immigration reform.

President Trump's cruel, divisive, and simply unworkable positions have made things worse. His policies and rhetoric have exacerbated the problem, permeating a culture of fear that forces many immigrants further into the shadows.

I have been an advocate for fair and reasonable immigration policies for more than 25 years. As mayor of my hometown of Glen Cove, New York, in 1994, I created the very first shape-up center on the East Coast of the United States of America. It gave newcomers from Central and South America a safe place to get hired and made sure they got paid for the work they did. If they didn't get hired, they could stay and learn English or new job skills.

As county executive, in 2007, I refused to let ICE work with my Nassau County Police Department because ICE was acting like cowboys, drawing guns and knocking down doors, intimidating children and families who were not even subject to their raids and all of who together presented no risk of violence whatsoever.

Today, those same guys who gathered on the street corners of Glen Cove now own their own businesses and own their own homes, and their kids attended school with my kids.

But now, President Trump's heartless immigration actions are separating parents from their children, and children are being housed in cages.

I have seen it with my own eyes. This past July, I traveled to McAllen and Brownsville, Texas, to personally inspect the detention and relief centers, visit points of entry, speak with migrant families, and meet with humanitarian aid organizations. My visit to the detention centers along our southern border was heartbreaking. I saw men, women, and children being held in awful conditions.

Our system is broken. These centers are overcrowded, unsanitary, and clear-

ly ill-equipped to care for people in great numbers.

Meanwhile, the administration continues to promulgate more callous and mean-spirited decisions aimed at further attacking immigrants. Deporting children with cancer and diverting funds from military programs to build the wall, including money that was meant to go toward building schools for military families, and keeping immigrant children locked in indefinite detention are unconscionable.

These decisions endorsed by this administration are not consistent with American values. America is founded on the fundamental principle that "all men and women are created equal." It is not that everyone with a green card or U.S. citizenship is created equal; it is that every man and woman is created equal and should be treated with human respect and dignity.

We must continue holding congressional hearings on forced family separation; the detention of children for prolonged periods of time; the decision to end TPS and DACA, the Dreamer plan; and the overwhelming backlog in U.S. immigration courts.

We must also defund hate, as my friends at Bend the Arc are advocating, and set a floor for refugee admissions at 95,000, as my friends at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society are advocating.

In addition to defunding the hateful policies of this administration, we must also strive for comprehensive immigration reform that treats people like human beings, lives up to the American Dream, gives a path of citizenship for TPS recipients and Dreamers, gives protection to millions of others, and secures our borders.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, "When we tolerate what we know to be wrong, when we close our eyes and ears to the corrupt because we are too busy or too frightened, when we fail to speak up and speak out, we strike a blow against freedom and decency and justice."

We need to restore truth and compassion to the debate over immigration in America, and we need to do it now, because the promise of the American Dream demands it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of Heaven and Earth, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Today we remember a day 18 years ago, begun in terror and violence, and ended in heroic effort and courage. We mourn those whose lives were snatched from them, and wish to comfort those left behind who still strive to cope with their loss. May You, O God, give them peace and healing.

We thank You again for the almost universal, international response to a great American tragedy, which all the world recognized as theirs as well. All Your children of good will could see the horror of actions by men, who would presume to act in Your name, causing so much death and destruction. May Your spirit of peace and justice continue to fill the hearts of people of all faiths, races, and nations. Help us to recognize Your creative love in the lives of all who share this beautiful planet.

Bless the men and women who serve this great Nation in the Senate and House of Representatives. May they be reminded of the importance of standing together to face the dangers presented by America's historical enemies.

May they be confident in the knowledge that all Americans stand behind them in their common effort to forge legislation that will reflect the resilient greatness of our Nation, protect our democratic process, and build a vibrant economy into a safe and secure future.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LEVIN of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.